

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Gera CONFIDENTIAL

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 4 February, the Reuss Kaserne on Steinertsberg, Gera (M 51/K 06) was occupied to capacity.

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1 officer and 12 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and towing a canvas-covered artillery piece, apparently a 100-mm AT gun, left the Reuss Kaserne on 21 January.

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a total of about 150 troops. The trucks returned empty to the installation after about three hours. On 28 January, about 1,800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery and motor transport insignia were seen receiving field training, close-order drill and training in firing in the area along Dornaer Landstrasse. A unit of about 150 men, also observed there, was equipped with skis, parkas for camouflage in snow, and carbines.

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2. Prior to 4 February, the barracks installation in Gera-Tinz still quartered the artillery unit of about 250 men from Weimar. The unit was commanded by a colonel. The ammunition supply installation southeast of the billeting area was guarded by troops from the Reuss Kaserne.
3. On 1 February, the barracks installation in Gera-Tinz quartered about 120 troops who had arrived on six trucks from Weimar shortly before Christmas 1951. Source observed that the troops were almost exclusively engaged in theoretical instruction. There were rumors that the troops were an advance party which was to do the work preparatory to the establishment of an artillery school. Troops other than those stationed there, including officers, were permitted to enter the barracks installation only upon special clearance by the commanding officer. Even the commanding officer of the unit previously quartered there had to wait at the guardhouse before being escorted into the installation by an officer. The unit of about 2,400 troops, which was previously stationed in Gera-Tinz, moved into the Prinz Eugen Kaserne, Rudolstadt (M 51/J 54), following their return from the troop training grounds. **

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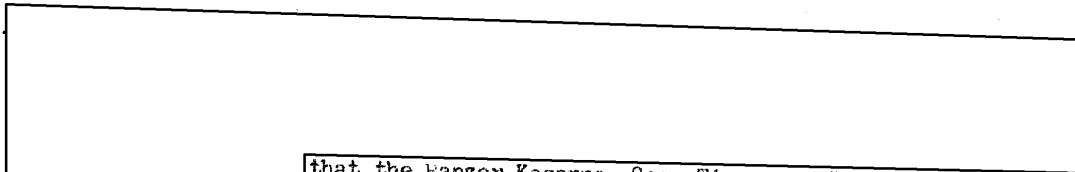
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4. On 1 February, the Reuss Kaserne quartered about 1,300 troops. Tractor-drawn AT guns were noticed in the billeting area. * A Soviet Army post office and telephone exchange were located in the corner building at the intersection of Karl Marxstrasse and Mathenastrasse. The Soviet komandatura was situated at 1 Ebelingstrasse. Its officers lived with their families in a restricted block of houses in Mathilde Kurnstrasse and Coethestrasse. ***

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that the Panzer Kaserne, Gera-Tinz, quarters a training unit which probably came from Weimar-Mohra. The training unit may be an artillery school of the Eighth Gds Army.

** [redacted] Comment. The units previously quartered in the installation included the 180th Engr Bn and the unidentified signal battalion, both of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, which were transferred to Rudolstadt.

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*** [redacted] Comment. The Soviet komandatura is known from previous reports. Mathilde Kurnstrasse was previously named Agnesstrasse and runs parallel to Aeusserer Leipzigerstrasse.

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